



THE PARABLE OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS.—PAINTED BY F. G. SCHADOW.

FINE ARTS.

ART IN GERMANY.

THE elevated tone which modern German Art has assumed, and which has aroused the attention of all the schools in Europe, may be dated from the year 1810, when Cornelius joined Overbeck at Rome, and was speedily followed by Schadow, Veit, Schnorr, and others—having been expelled from the Academy at Düsseldorf under the same circumstances as Overbeck from that of Vienna, because they persisted in working from the life, contrary to the manner and precepts of their masters.

Some time, of course, elapsed, after the secession of these students from the German schools, before the truth of their principles began to be acknowledged. It was at Rome, in 1820, that the regeneration was first declared, and the flame kindled which now burns with such ardour and purity at Düsseldorf, Munich, &c.

The first frescoes were commissioned by Mendelssohn Bartholdy, the Prussian Consul; and the artists chosen were Overbeck, Cornelius, Schadow, and Veit, whose subsequent reputations, as well, perhaps, as that of painting in fresco itself, depended to a great extent on the execution of those works. Canova was the next to commission Veit, who executed several frescoes for him; and the example was followed by the Marchese Massini, who enriched his villa by the works of Overbeck, Cornelius, Koch, Führich, and Schnorr.

The painstaking students with whom the modern movement originated, went at once to the commencement of art, and were charmed with the simple devotion of its ancient professors antecedent to Raffaele, that many of them were content to remain with them. Of the results which have been arrived at by such a course of study in the German schools, we give our readers a selection, each characteristic of the style of the eminent masters whom they represent.

Our first Engraving, by Frederick Guillaume Schadow, the director of the Academy at Düsseldorf, one of the finest compositions, and perhaps the finest of the school over which he presides, is the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins. Schadow was born at Berlin in 1789, and made his first studies in that city under his father and Weitsch, the Court painter. In 1810 he went to Rome. In 1827 he assumed the directorship of the Academy of Düsseldorf, and since then has contributed much to the growing esteem in which that school is held.

Schadow and his pupils have adopted a new method of painting, which they believe to have been that of the ancient Venetians. They commence the picture in a monochrome or grey colour, and finish it with glazings.

The next Engraving is by Augustó Hopfgarten. The subject is



RUTH AND NAOMI.—PAINTED BY A. HOPFGARTEN.

"Ruth and Naomi." The old Naomi having lost her two sons, sad and resigned, is returning with her daughters-in-law to the country of Juda. Orpah is leaving them to return unto her people; but Ruth will not abandon her mother-in-law, in spite of her entreaties.

The poetry and dignity associated with this subject speak stronger than language. The noble and severe style of the German school accords well with the sacred writings in their sublime simplicity. The characters are admirably rendered, and great knowledge is shown in the execution of the draperies. Hopfgarten was born at Berlin in 1807, and studied in the Academy, and, later, in the atelier of Wach, of whom he is one of the most distinguished pupils. There is no analogy, however, between their styles. In 1827 he went to Italy, where he remained till 1833, and has since exercised his talents in his native city with much zeal and success. He is a good colourist.

The third Engraving is from a fine picture by Edouard Bendeman, representing Jeremiah among the ruins of Jerusalem. This picture is, perhaps, as full of grandeur and majesty as any of the present epoch. The talent of Bendeman is of a high order, and exercised in its proper sphere. Bendeman was born at Berlin in 1811, and, being the son of a wealthy banker, has, therefore, enjoyed advantages which fall to the lot of but few distinguished members of his profession. At the age of twenty-one he produced his well-known picture of "The Captive Jews;" and, two years after, the "Jeremiah" which is the subject of the Engraving.

(To be continued.)

BALANCES OF PUBLIC MONEY IN THE EXCHEQUER.—The balances of public money in the Exchequer on the 5th of January, 1850, amounted to £9,748,539, and on the 5th of January, 1851, to £9,245,876. The amount issued to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt within the year was £2,333,265. The Exchequer bills issued for the payment of supply bills amounted to £17,703,830. The total amount of advances for local works, under various acts of Parliament, including £1,241,896 for drainage in Great Britain and Ireland, and for railways, union workhouses, distressed unions, &c., in Ireland, was £1,935,562. Of this amount, £1,189,359 was repaid, making the excess of advances over repayments £746,203.

A new hotel is about to be built at Boston, United States, six stories high, with a dining-hall containing 5625 square feet, and other rooms, to the number of 200, in due proportion.

David Robert Ross, Esq. (formerly M.P. for Belfast), has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago, in the room of Major Lawrence Grame, deceased.

Samuel Allan Willmont, Esq., Attorney-General of New Brunswick, has been appointed Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court in that colony, in place of W. Carter, Esq., appointed Chief Justice; and Aston Davoren, Esq., has been appointed Chief Justice at St. Christopher's.



JEREMIAH AMONG THE RUINS OF JERUSALEM.—PAINTED BY E. BENDEMAN.



EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.—"CHIPS," PAINTED BY J. LINNELL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.—"SCANDAL," PAINTED BY A. SOLOMON.

(Continued from page 123.)

CEYLON COMMISSION.

CEYLON COMMISSION.

THE SPEAKER said that, with regard to the first question, it depended entirely on the mode in which the papers in question had been laid before the committee. If they had been produced in a formal manner, and entered regularly in the Journals, the possession of the House, and it was a breach of privilege for any Government department to withhold them; but if they had not been laid formally before the committee, the governmental department in which they were could produce them or not at their own discretion. With regard to the second question, it was not a question of privilege, but one to be decided by a motion of the House.

Mr. Lord J. Russell.—Sir, in answer to the two questions of the hon. gentleman, I can say, in the first place, that it is not the intention of her Majesty's Ministers to take any steps in the present session to extend the right of voting for members to sit in this House. (Laughter.) With regard to the second question, whether there is any intention to amend the deficiencies of the Reform Act of 1832, I have on a previous occasion expressed my opinion to the House that there were certain amendments to the Reform Bill which I thought it was desirous to make, with a view to the extension of the franchise. (Hear, hear.) I still retain that opinion, and I shall certainly carry it out when I think the proper time has arrived for doing so. (Laughter.)

the probable prices of wheat, knowing that, up to 1849, the agriculturists were

ed was one in every 3,176,680 conveyed; and injured one in every 1,000,000.

PROSPECTUS OF THE CHESS TOURNAMENT AT THE ST. GEORGE'S CHESS CLUB, IN 1851.

MOTIVES AND SPIRIT OF THE MEETING.—Many circumstances of the utmost interest to Chess Players have long rendered them desirous to see a General Congress of their fraternity. In the first place, it is an old matter of regret that anomalies and obscurities, both in its laws and language, should still be permitted to impede the diffusion of a game, which, perhaps, of all intellectual exercises, that are merely exercises, is acknowledged to be the most sharpening and bracing to the calculating powers of the mind. Until such an arrangement

as that now contemplated takes place, and for which the approaching Exhibition will afford opportunities never before enjoyed, these discrepancies and imperfections are likely to continue; but from this revision of the leading players of the age, it is not too much to expect we may obtain a revision of the general laws which regulate the game, an authoritative decision upon the differences existing between the Chess code of Italy and that of the rest of Europe, and the establishment of one consistent and uniform system of notation for the whole Chess community. In the second place, there is a very natural anxiety among those who have long been acquainted with each other by reputation, to see and know each other personally; and a desire not less natural among

CONDITIONS OF THE TOURNAMENT.

The Tournament will comprise—1. A series of grand individual matches, in which players of all countries will be admitted to contend. 2. Of matches in which only the provincial players of Great Britain and Ireland will compete together. 3. If time will permit, of a great Consultation Match, to be contested by four selected British, against four foreign players. The great series of matches, the competitors will be paired in the following way:—Suppose the number of combatants consist of thirty-two (a number assumed for the facility of ultimate division, they will be paired off by lot, and commence their games simultaneously. The sixteen players winning two out of three games to be declared victors in this first section of the series. The sixteen losers will be excluded from all further participation in the play, except as regards the right which each one has to challenge the winner of the highest prize, according to the terms hereinafter mentioned. The sixteen winners are then to be paired off by lot as before, the eight couple beginning their matches simultaneously. The eight winners of the first two games to be declared conquerors in this, the second section of the contest, and to be held entitled to the eight prizes. To determine the order in which the prizes shall be distributed, the eight prize bearers will then be paired off against each other, as before, each couple to play the best of three games. The four winners in the third contest will then be paired off by lot again, and play the best of three games; while the four losers will be paired off in another division, to play in the same manner. The two winners in the first division of four will then contend for the first prize—the second prize going to the loser. The two losers will play for the third prize, the fourth prize going to the player beaten. The two winners in the second division will, in like manner, contend who is to have the fifth, and who the sixth, prize; and the two losers contend who is to have the seventh, and who the eighth, prize. This last set of matches between the eight winners will be commenced simultaneously, and in each match the winner of the first four games shall have the higher prize.

NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF THE PRIZES.—After deducting all necessary expenses.—The First Prize will consist of a sum not less than one-third of the net amount of the funds collected. The Second Prize will consist of a sum not less than one-tenth of the net funds collected. The Third Prize will consist of a sum not less than one-fourteenth of the net funds collected. The Fourth Prize will consist of a sum not less than one-twentieth of the net funds collected. The Fifth Prize will consist of a sum not less than one-thirtieth of the net funds collected. The Sixth Prize will consist of a sum not less than one-fortieth of the net funds collected. The Seventh Prize will consist of a silver cup, with commemorative inscription; or, at the option of the winner, of a sum not less than one-sixtieth part of the net subscription. The Eighth Prize will consist of a large (club size) set of Ivory Chessmen, with suitable Chess-board, inscribed with the winner's name and victory.

THE PROVINCIAL MATCHES.

The competitors in these contests will be paired by lot as in the previously mentioned cases, and, again assuming the number of thirty-two, the sixteen couple will play one game each. The sixteen winners will again be paired by lot, and play one game each. The eight winners will then in like manner be paired off, and play one game each; and the four winners will then be entitled to the prizes. These four will cast lots for competitors, and each couple play a rubber of three games. The two winners of this rubber will then play another rubber, to decide who is to have the first and who the second prize; and the other two will play a rubber, to decide who is to have the third and who the fourth prize.

NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF PRIZES IN THE PROVINCIAL MATCHES.—The first prize will consist of a sum not less than one-twentieth of the net funds collected. The second prize will consist of a handsome silver cup, with suitable inscription. The third prize will consist of a large set (club size) Ivory chess-men, and suitable board, inscribed. The fourth prize will consist of a set of small size Ivory chess-men, with handsome board, inscribed.

CONSULTATION MATCH.

This match, it is proposed by the committee, shall consist of the best of seven games played by four chosen British players, consulting together, against four foreign players from any part of the world, also consulting together. The prize to be a sum divided among the victors, of not less than one-tenth of the net funds collected.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE TOURNAMENT.

1. The Tournament to be played at the St. George's Chess Club.
2. The names of all competitors in the Tournament must be sent in to the Managing Committee on or before the 26th of April. After that period no one will be allowed, under any circumstances, to be admitted.
3. The Tournament to commence with the competition for the General Prizes, on Tuesday the 27th of May; but the whole of the combatants will be required to be present at the St. George's Chess Club on the previous day, when they will be paired by lot, and the hours and days of play appointed.
4. The competition for the Provincial Prizes to begin on Tuesday the 3rd of June; but the whole of the combatants will be required to be present at the St. George's Chess Club on the previous day, when they will be paired, and the hours and days of play decided on. Each competitor to these prizes to pay an entrance fee of one guinea.
5. The competition in the Consultation Match will not commence until the previous contests are concluded, and of this due notice will be given. There will be no entrance-fee for this match.
6. The prizes in the general *middle* will be open for competition to all the world; but, to guard against an influx of inferior players, a subscription of five guineas will be required from every one entering for these prizes, which subscription must be paid previous to, or on the day before the play begins.
7. The mode adopted for pairing the combatants will be to bring the two best players in the Tournament into collision for the chief prize; but, as this desirable object might be frustrated, the Committee have decided that the winner of the great prize shall hold himself open, for forty-eight hours, to accept a challenge for a single match with any competitor in the Tournament who shall first challenge him, for one hundred pounds a side.
8. The games to be played in accordance with the rules of the chief European Chess Clubs, and all disputed points referred to the Managing Committee, whose decision must be considered final.
9. Any player failing to attend within half an hour of the time appointed for the games to be played, must forfeit one guinea to the fund, for each and every non-attendance; and after three forfeitures for absence, he will not be permitted to enter the lists again.
10. One game at least to be played by each pair of combatants at a sitting, unless it be protracted above eight hours, when by mutual consent it may be adjourned to the next day.
11. For non-attendance, on one occasion only, a medical certificate will be allowed to excuse the absentee from penalty.
12. As the Managing Committee guarantee to every subscriber of a guinea and upwards a correct copy of the whole games, and as considerable expense must attend the recording of so many games and their subsequent publication, it must be understood that no one will be allowed, in the first instance, to publish any part of them, without the express sanction of the Committee.
13. Every player entering the lists in the Tournament must consider himself, *ipso facto*, bound by all regulations issued by the Managing Committee.

5, Cavendish-square, London, Feb. 8th, 1851.

† Throughout the play in the Tournament, it is to be understood that drawn games do not count.

‡ The Committee reserve to themselves the right of waiving this fee, in the case of any eminent player from abroad, who may have incurred great expense in attending the Tournament.

LETTERS TO POLAND.—A Post-office circular gives notice, that henceforward, letters for Poland, transmitted through Prussia, by way of Belgium, Holland, or Hamburg, will be liable to reduced rates of postage in lieu of the rates heretofore chargeable. These letters may be forwarded unpaid or paid to destination, but a portion of the postage cannot be taken in this country. Letters for Poland will be sent through Prussia, by way of Belgium, unless specially addressed to be otherwise forwarded, and the rates of postage by that route must be taken upon such letters when paid in the United Kingdom.

SPORTING IN CEYLON.—The Earl Grosvenor, who, for some years, has regularly visited the Highlands on grouse-shooting and deer-stalking expeditions, has now adventured on higher game, having arrived at Ceylon on an elephant-shooting excursion. The *Colombo Observer* states, that his Lordship is accompanied by the Hon. Frederick Leveson Gower and Captain Egerton. The *Observer* welcomes the noble party, and assures them that every elephant killed is a benefit to the country.

THE CHASE AND THE RAILWAY.—A singular accident occurred in the course of a run with the Surrey hounds. The fox met for the railway, where a steep chalk cutting, about 50 feet, and quite perpendicular, is crossed by a bridge. The hounds were about five minutes behind the fox, and the first seven couple went clean down the cutting on to the rails. Eleven of them were killed on the spot, and the other three have either died since or been destroyed. The two whips, assisted by several gentlemen, hauled the bodies off the line by means of ropes. The fact was not known to the huntsman nor to most of the hounds, for within half a minute after the check came to at the rail, a "view couple" were laid on to the second fox, and the field of course followed. It is not known whether the fox went down the cutting, but probably he knew the place and ran some way along the edge behind the embankment, and then doubled back.

BOG SLIP ON ABERDARE HILL.—During the continuance of the late heavy rains, a large tract of boggy ground on the side of this hill, adjoining the road, moved a considerable distance, and spread completely across the road. Many years ago a similar circumstance occurred on the same hill. Last Sunday it was visited by several hundreds of people from Merthyr and Aberdare, and a gentleman, either inadvertently or imprudently, went into it with his horse, and there stuck fast, so that it was found necessary to obtain ropes to drag the animal and its adventurous rider out of the bog.

The official appointments have been made for the colony of South Australia, viz. Governor Charles Sturt, Colonel Secombe; Boyle Francis Furniss, Esq., Colonial Treasurer; George Frederick Ashwood, Esq., Commissioner of Police, Australia; and Richard F. Newland, Esq., has been appointed Sub-ordinary Magistrate for the port of Adelaide.

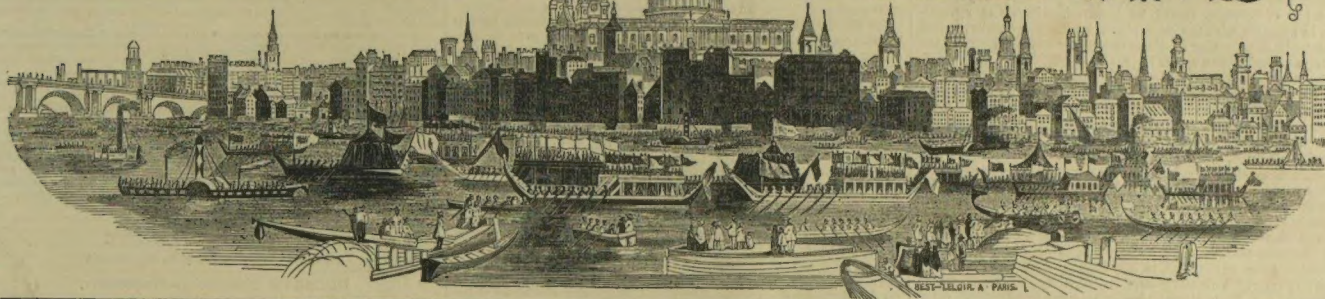
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the great body of Chess amateurs to fix, by a practical criterion, the real rank of the most skilful and celebrated players, and to test, by actual conflict, the just value of rival styles of chess strategy. To effect these objects, and, at the same time to prove, that, while we excel all other nations in sports of an athletic nature, we are equally anxious to cultivate proficiency in those which are intellectual, the Chess amateurs of England have determined to hold a Tournament, open to all comers from every country and nation in the world. This proposal has already met with the most zealous response, not only in the three kingdoms, but throughout Europe, America, and the East Indies, and committees of noblemen and gentlemen have been organised in London and Paris,

for the purpose of deciding and superintending the general plan of proceeding. A COMMITTEE ASSIGNED FOR REMODELLING THE LAWS OF CHESS.—The members of this "Chess Parliament," it has been suggested, should be elected by the great body of players present at the Tournament, who must not only appoint these representatives of the Chess Confederation, but define their duties and invest them with such authority as will give to their decisions an indisputable efficacy. Until the assembling of that body, it is therefore impossible to enter on this head into details, which it will be the office of the Congress itself to arrange.

* The names of the two Committees will be found in our Number for January 11.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1851.

[SIXPENCE { WITH SUPPLEMENT: GRATIS.

MR. DISRAELI'S REMEDIES FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

It was not wise in the Ministry to regret in the Royal Speech the existence of Agricultural Distress, or to make any mention of the subject, unless they were convinced that that distress was the result of legislative enactment, and was capable of removal by the same agency which caused it. It cannot be imagined that the Ministry have any doubts upon the subject, or any misgiving, that, after all, either the policy of Free Trade or some other act of the Legislature might be to blame; and it therefore was, to say the least of it, exceedingly impolitic to excite hopes which they knew they could not realise, and to encourage the respectable and estimable people, who cultivate the land, in the false notion, that they are a class apart and to be aided in their business at the expense of all the rest of the community.

Mr. Disraeli, as leader of the Protectionist party, has not been slow to take advantage of the weak amiability, or the amiable weakness of the Ministry upon this subject, and before the session was a week old, has come before the House and the country with a woful repetition of a woful story. He has proved that agriculture, like the new-born babe in the Eastern poem, "wept when all around it smiled;" and that the cheapness of food, which made all other classes prosperous and happy, was ruin to every one engaged in the cultivation of the land. There is no doubt that agriculture in this country is not prosperous; but it should be remembered that it never was prosperous within any traditional or historical period, or within the recollection of any living man, except when bread was at famine price. Protected or unprotected, British agriculture has been constantly dissatisfied. Its woes began with the Peace; since which period, it may be safely stated, it has allowed no peace to politicians, and has all but monopolised, with Roman Catholic grievances and Papal aggressions, the whole attention of the Legislature. The lament of Thomas Moore in 1826 applies to 1851:—

What! still those two infernal questions,
That with our meals, our slumbers mix;
That spoil our tempers and digestions—
Eternal Corn and Catholics?

Gods! were there ever two such bores
Nothing else talk'd of, night or morn;

Nothing in doors or out of doors,
But endless Catholics and Corn!

Mr. Disraeli, and all who advocate, directly or indirectly, the cause of Protection, blame Free Trade for the present distress of the occupiers of land; forgetting that they were quite as distressed under the Protective system as they are now, and ignoring, for the purposes of their present arguments, their whole history for upwards of thirty years. The agriculturists desire what they cannot get—a higher price for their commodity than the market price of the world; and a price which, if they could obtain it, would ruin the commerce and the manufactures of this country, and draw us, not by slow, but by rapid degrees, into the vortex of as sanguinary a revolution as ever afflicted any nation in the world. That Free Trade is not to blame for their distress, is proved not alone by their own history, but by the complaints of the protected agriculturists of France, who allege, like their English competitors, that they cannot cultivate the soil at a sufficient profit, and who, having some protection, are clamorous for more. They would have a minimum price of food, and would measure out the contents of the horn of Amalthaea—even though it overflowed as in the Golden Age—at a famine price, to an eager people. They never calculate how long the people could pay such a price, or whether the attempt to make a nation pay more than the current price of the world for its food, is not ultimately ruinous even to agriculture itself.

Mr. Disraeli announces that he has abandoned the cause of Protection in so far as Parliamentary effort to overthrow the system of Free Trade is concerned. Accepting Free Trade as a fact, not to be set aside unless by the deliberate verdict of the constituencies—which he knows full well can never be obtained—he desires that agriculture should be freed from any unjust burdens that may weigh upon it, in order that it may compete freely and fairly with the whole world in the raising of food for the British people. "What," he asks, "is the reason that when all are prosperous, an important class should suffer? Why is it that the cultivator of the soil, whom we all recognise to be a man of energy and of enterprise, and whose great virtues we now recognise—what is the reason that the cultivator of the soil in the United Kingdom should not be able to compete with the foreign cultivator?" He affirms the reason to be, the weight of taxation to which the cultivator of the British soil is subjected, and calls upon the Government and the

Legislature to relieve them of a large portion of those burdens. Mr. Disraeli does not seem to think, that, taken in the aggregate, the taxation of the British people is excessive, but that the owners and occupiers of land are proportionally more heavily weighted than any other class. Upon both of these points, the non-agricultural class will be prepared to join issue with him, and to assert that the whole British people—agriculturists as well as manufacturers, country and town, all classes and interests of society—are enormously taxed, but that agriculture does not pay a fraction more than its share. The three burdens which Mr. Disraeli especially seeks to remove, with the view of lightening the pressure upon agriculture, are—the prohibition to grow tobacco and sugar, the malt-tax, and the excessive amount of local rates. Let us take these questions one by one, and see what the agriculturists, or the country, would gain by their removal.

In the first place, the permission to grow tobacco, even if accorded, would be but a small matter. The total value of the tobacco imported into this country is, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer informed the House, but £500,000. If the English and Irish farmers were allowed to grow it, could they compete with the tobacco-growers of North and South America and Cuba? Under a system of Free Trade they most certainly could not; for tobacco from those regions could be supplied cheaper and better than it could be grown in Great Britain or Ireland. If they desired to protect British and Irish tobacco by a prohibitory duty, the impudence of the demand would almost surpass credence. A sacrifice of revenue to the extent of £3,250,000 would be a necessary accompaniment of this scheme. The consumers of tobacco would pay the present price—that is to say, the net value of the tobacco, £500,000, plus the present duty; which, instead of going into the national exchequer, would go into the pockets of the tobacco-growers; and the deficiency of £3,250,000 in the revenue would have to be made up from the general resources of the people. The agriculturists really think that Protection, being banished from bread, is to be restored upon tobacco, they are blinder than we take them to be; and, if Mr. Disraeli really believes that such a scheme has the remotest shadow of the fraction of a chance of being sanctioned by this or any possible Parliament or Government, he is not the man of ability or of common sense that the world is willing to believe he is. As regards the sugar question, we should think that



FIRE AT KROLL'S GARDENS, BERLIN.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

Last week, a workman was unfortunately crushed to death, at Mr. Shurton's colliery, near Wigan. He was at work in the mine when a stone fell upon him from the roof; and so great was its weight, that it had to be broken up piece by piece before the body could be released from beneath it.



PALAVER BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR OF THE GAMBIA AND THE KING OF COMBO.

SKETCHES ON THE GAMBIA.

Bathurst, Gambia, January 5th, 1851.

I SEND you a couple of sketches of African scenery. The occasion on which they were taken was the holding of a grand "palaver," as it is called by the natives, between the Governor of the Gambia, Mr. McDonnell, and the King of Combo.

The territory of the King or Chief of Combo adjoins ours, and is separated from it only by a creek about six miles from the town of Bathurst. In his territory there is a sanitary house or station for the troops, built on a cliff overlooking the sea, about 60 feet high. Some of the Bathurst merchants have also built houses at the same place. The coast continues for miles at about the same elevation, sloping gradually down towards the interior, so that there is no swamp in the immediate vicinity; whilst, being exposed to the Atlantic, the sea-breeze blows over it. The advantages of the position are so evident, that, almost from our first settlement at the Gambia, we have endeavoured to obtain possession of some land along the coast from the natives; but, though quite willing to receive our presents, and nominally to cede almost any quantity of land, if they thought it would not be really claimed and made use of, they have shown a great repugnance to really giving any up, although the whole territory had been nominally ceded to us in 1840. As Bathurst increased it became absolutely necessary for us to have some land at the Cape, and every day the difficulty of obtaining it became increased. Persons at home are apt to class in their minds all Africans universally as savages, and to fancy that if any attempt at government exists amongst them, it is in the patriarchal or despotic power of some King or Chief. Nothing, however, can be less correct. Amongst many of the African tribes or nations an almost republican state exists, especially amongst the Mahomedans. The King is obliged to consult his "headmen" or chiefs on every occasion, and their "vested interest" in the soil is guarded with the greatest jealousy. In fact, all, or nearly all, the rudiments of civilisation exist: the same

with a difference" as they have existed at different ages amongst ourselves. The practical consequence to us on the present occasion was, that, whilst former Kings had taken presents and nominally resigned large and to us useless tracts of territory, the chiefs denied that they had ever been parties to any such treaties or agreements, and refused to give up a foot of land! It was therefore determined by the Governor of the Gambia, on this occasion, to hold a solemn "palaver," not only with the King of Combo, but with all his chiefs, on their own territory, and to enter into a treaty to which all would give their assent, taking care, at the same time, to reimburse the owners of any cultivated lands for any losses they might sustain; and, by paying a yearly rent for the ceded ground, to bind not only the present King and chiefs, but their successors.

The King of Combo had agreed to meet the Governor at Jaswong, in the Combo country, the nearest point to Bathurst, and where Mr. Finden, a Bathurst merchant, has a cottage. He promised to have all his chiefs with him, and, at length, to positively decide the question of the land to be given to us. At the same time, he privately advised a body of soldiers to be brought out, for he could not answer for his faithful subjects not taking the law into their own hands if they saw a chance of success.

Accordingly, on the 21st of December, a force of 120 men, with three pieces of artillery, and three rocket guns, and commanded by Captain Prendergast, 3rd West India Regiment, marched by night from Bathurst, and encamped (as seen in one of the sketches sent herewith) at Jaswong. On the 23rd of December, his Majesty of Combo, with all his headmen, or chiefs, and about two thousand followers, armed with muskets and swords, attended the "palaver." Scarcely a Mandingo is under six feet high—straight, athletic fellows; while their cotton dresses, though they will not generally bear close examination on the score of cleanliness, are loose, flowing, and graceful. We all met in solemn council, as seen in the accompanying sketch, where (under a tree in Major Finden's courtyard) are assembled the Governor and staff in uniform, with a motley crowd round them of chiefs and their servants; the King,

his relatives, and some natives in war dresses, in the foreground. In the background, the bayonets of the guard of honour are seen above the head of a numerous and excited multitude, who are only kept out by the strong fence of the inclosed yard.

It would appear that diplomacy, or "lying for the good of our country," is universal in every country, and in every stage of civilisation. His Majesty of Combo had privately assured us that our claims were quite just, and that he was most anxious to give us the land; but before his own people he appeared to think it necessary to assume the warlike and indignant patriot, uninfluenced by blue bafts or dollars. He denied that any of the former treaties had the least force, and both he and his "headmen" declared that the King could not give away or sell any land; that he could not, in fact, give up his rights of sovereignty over it; but that he could, with the consent of his chief men, lend it or rent it for any period. It was at length decided, that persons appointed by both parties should ride over and survey the land which was required.

We had a proof that it is not only amongst the "Great Powers" there is tenaciousness of rank or authority. The Governor, anxious to send persons in whom the Mandingoes would place full confidence, said, "I will send the Slattee of Yundum, the next heir to the throne." The King, however, at once interrupted him, saying, "No, I will send him."

The next day, the Governor rode over to the Cape to point out the land which was required. Large bodies of armed men, soon after the Governor's arrival at the Cape, began to pour in towards the Cape, and endeavoured to surround him when arranging with the chiefs the best mode of measuring the ground. He therefore retired to the Sanatory House, where a small body of troops had previously been sent by sea, by the Governor's orders, as a precautionary measure. The house was for some time almost invested by the Mandingoes, who, however, made no hostile attempt; but, as the whole armed force of the country was on foot and round us in every direction, the troops in camp were kept under arms for twenty-four hours in expectation of an attack.

It appeared that many of the people were exceedingly anxious to try a brush with us, apparently for the honour of the thing, and that the King and chiefs had great difficulty in preventing them. They only succeeded by telling them, "they no know the way white man fight—he rain lightning." Several of them had been up to Keessing to assist their friends there last year, and though accustomed universally to the use of small arms, shells and rockets had given them a severe but useful lesson towards peace and quietness. Our Keessing expedition therefore enabled us now to obtain peaceably all that we required; and we only asked for land which was of no use to the people, and of the greatest importance and necessity to us, and which we had already purchased three times previously.

The next day the Mandingoes appointed Major Finden, of the Bathurst militia, in whom they place great confidence, as their umpire; the land was marked out, and they appeared rather surprised at our moderation. The Governor returned early the following day, December 26th, to the camp, and in the afternoon a second solemn council was held, at which all the chiefs were present. The presents were made; the tribute, custom, or rent, whichever we may call it, was agreed on; and a treaty which they appeared to consider, and declared was finally binding according to their laws, was made and signed as formally as possible, the principal chiefs signing their names in Arabic. A "palaver" of great importance to us, and which at one time threatened to terminate unpleasantly, was thus brought to a conclusion satisfactory to all parties, and the camp at Jaswong was broken up.

I ought to add, that, on its being reported in Bathurst that the Mandingoes were about to attack the troops at Jaswong, a considerable body of native volunteers from the militia, and also others, immediately joined us.

The mechanics at Bathurst are chiefly of the Jollof nation: many of them are excellent workmen—carpenters, masons, &c. There is also a large body of Liberated Africans, taken from slavers. All these people are decidedly fast improving in civilisation, and show that they appreciate the advantages of our rule, by their willingness to fight for it; and not only were they willing to do so without pay, but they actually laid considerable sums in equipping themselves. The Liberated Africans look on themselves as peculiarly English; and one occasionally meets some old gentleman, retired from the world, not quite up to current events and the deaths of Kings, who proudly informs you that he is "King George man."

The Lyons papers state, that, during the whole of Sunday last, the rain fell in torrents, and the snow which had melted on the mountains, had caused the Rhone to rise considerably. The Saone has also risen in such a manner as to cause considerable anxiety. At St. Etienne, the waters of the Furens had swollen so much that all the shops in that part of the town, which suffered so much in July, 1849, had been closed, and the property removed. Detachments of dragoons have been stationed along the banks, with above and below the town, in order to render assistance where necessary. The Chavanelet, which is usually nothing more than a small stream, overflowed its banks, and washed down three houses. No lives were lost.

A few days since, a handsome silver medal was transmitted, by order of the Admiralty, to Mr. Stephen Collard, pilot, of Deal, for his meritorious services at the cutting out of the *Desire* French frigate, in the last war! Better late than never.



ENCAMPMENT AT JASWONG.



THE NEW TERMINUS OF THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY, AT LONDON-BRIDGE.

THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

THE Buildings for the purposes of this line of Railway have, from the first, been distinguished for their taste and appropriateness; and, among these, the Terminus at London-bridge, or rather adjoining Tooley-street, was not the least remarkable for the neatness, artistic character, and reality of its *façade*. We regret, therefore, that this has disappeared, to make room, apparently, for one of less merit, with an addition of a row of unornamental houses and shops. Nevertheless, as a change in the premises of a large metropolitan establishment, we have deemed it worthy of illustration.

RYE SWING-BRIDGE.

THIS interesting work has just been erected on the Ashford, Rye, and Hastings branch of the South-Eastern Railway; P. W. Barlow, Esq., F.R.S., engineer. The Bridge is situated on that part of the line where it crosses the river Rother, close to the ancient town and port of Rye. It was designed and constructed by Messrs. Ransomes & May, engineers, of Ipswich; and erected in its present position by Mr. R. C. May. Its total weight is about 116 tons, and length 112 feet. It belongs to the class called "swing-bridges," constructed so that when a ship has occasion to pass, that cannot lower its mast, the bridge can be swung, and will then

stand lengthwise of the stream. It stands on a centre pier, twenty-two feet square, composed of thirty-seven piles, thirteen inches square, driven down into the solid ground, and capped with two thicknesses of 6-inch planking; leaving between this and the approach on either side an opening of 40 feet for ship traffic.

The Bridge itself consists of a bottom roller-path (or large circle), of 17 feet diameter, weighing about 12 tons, securely fastened to the top of the centre pier; on this is placed a ring of cast iron, being a sort of frame or roller ring, containing the rollers on which the Bridge turns: these are sixteen in number, and 18 inches diameter by 12 inches wide. On these is placed the top roller-path, of a similar diameter to the bottom one; and upon them the girders, which are very strong, and ornamented on their sides with mouldings, &c. Each girder is in two pieces, bolted and dowelled together, the joint being covered up with a shield-plate, on which the initials of the company (S.E.R.) are twisted into an ornamental monogram. Upon these girders come two large standards in the Moorish style of architecture, weighing about eight tons each; and upon the top of these are placed two large plunger blocks, with the bearing of a six-inch pin of wrought iron, on which are two joint-plates that contain the nuts for the end of the tie-bars. This nut is cut right-handed, and the one in the tie-rod left-handed, so that the screw which connects the two, being turned by means of a wrench, either tightens or slackens the tie-rod; a very

necessary appliance, as the difference of temperature considerably affects so long a rod of wrought iron. These tie-rods are principally used when the Bridge is swung, as they then support the girders by being attached to them underneath, by means of a 2½-inch pin. They are twelve in number, and are double thicknesses of 6 inches wide by 1 inch thick of wrought iron. The top ends of these, and the standard-heads, are covered up by a large ornamental cap, on the front of which is emblazoned the Cinque Ports arms, Rye being one of the towns under the Lord Warden.

The swinging of the Bridge is accomplished by means of spur and bevil-wheels: two men can swing it easily in about two minutes and a half.

The adjourned meeting of the Committee for the Cambridge Military Asylum was held on Saturday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., in the chair, to consider a report of the final arrangements for the erection of this asylum about to be submitted to the general body of subscribers. Among the subscriptions announced was that of the Duke of Norfolk of £50; and an intimation was given that his Majesty the King of Hanover felt disposed to honour this most excellent object with a munificent donation.

It is said that one of the measures of economy which is contemplated by the Government is the consolidation of the duties of colonial treasurer and of the commissariat officer in charge of the military chest.



RYE SWING-BRIDGE, ON THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.—BY RICHARD DOYLE.

"Love rules the camp—the court—the grove—
The Post-office—and, indeed, most places."

VALENTINE'S DAY. Valentine's Day!
How shall my feeble pen essay,
Of thy love-burdened glories to tell?
Season of smiles—season of tears—
Season of hopes—season of fears—
Season of murmuring, kissing, and sighing;
Of whispering soft nothings; of pining and dying;
Of vows of true constancy breathed o'er and o'er;
Season of loud double-knocks at the door,
And limitless rings at the bell.

Valentine's Day! Valentine's Day!
Cupid's own holiday! Long hath thy sway
Govern'd the love-sick host.
How many a heart hath thy influence compell'd
To divulge the fond passion long secretly held;
In how many a timid and maidenly breast
Hath Love's flame fiercely burning destroy'd all her rest,
Till, on thy day, St. Valentine, all was confess'd
'Twixt her lover, herself, and the Post!

The lady fair was sitting in her bower up on high
(For ladies fair had bowers in the happy days gone by)—
I don't mean bowers such as those at Rosherville one
sees,
Where Cockney gents take ladies fair to eighteen-
penny teas,
But a boudoir, or sitting-room—a quiet snug affair,
Up somewhere in what would now be pronounced a
"front two-pair."

I'm digressing, I know,
And so,
Not to tire my readers already, I'll try
To begin where I left off. She sat up on high,
In her bower
In the tower,
Where hour by hour
She watched; and her fair brow began to lour.

She was sad.
And she had
Enough, really, to make her;—'twas wrong, 'twas too
bad;
'Twas St. Valentine's Day, and the postman had
pass'd.
'Twas near two by her watch (but her watch was too
fast).
'Twas only a quarter-past one;
But there had she stood from dawn's earliest peep-
ing.
First weeping and watching, then watching and weep-
ing,
And though now when past noon she her post was still
keeping,
No signs of a Valentine—none!

But see who approaches, thus armed cap-a-pie!
Oh, well she remembers that form! It is he,
With his splendid war charger, and armour so gay,
That he rode through the City in, last Lord Mayor's
Day.
He has come his true love to console.
'I thank thee, St. Valentine," loud does she cry,
As she sees her own Knight-riding gallantly by—

On the point of his spear hold a letter on high,
(In the style that we'd serve a brown bear, by the by,
With a bun on the top of a pole.)

She opens it: O maiden fair! what happiness is thine,
To read this splendid sample of

An Antique Valentine.

"Grammercy, fayre ladye, ye rose is redde,
'I fackins, ye violet's blue;
Mass, by ye Ladye, carnations are sweet,
Aye, marry, and soe are you."

The lady sits at her lattice
(Her window you all know that is):
Why does the lady smile,
And look pleased yet alarmed the while?
Ah! I see at her door is her cause of joy—
'Tis he, her own dearly loved minstrel boy;
As he plays "Wilt thou love me then as now?"
But she knows that the Baron would bid him begone,
As we'd order an organ-boy now to "move on."

Valentine's Day! Valentine's Day!
Thine is the power we all obey.
The old man no longer on this day feels
That his joints are stiff, as he fondly kneels;
And the middle-aged lady, while dangle her fan,
Looks complacently down on the fond old man;
And the child, the sportive child,
By St. Valentine's Day beguiled,
Lets his hoop and his marbles drop:

No longer he cares for his infantile toys,
His games in the street with the rest of the boys,
For the innocent ball or top;

At the shop,
Whose windows St. Valentine's letters display;
The plain ones so cheap, and the colour'd so gay;
But the colour'd are twopence—rejoicing is vain—
He has but a penny—he buys one plain.

The Postmen knock, the Postmen ring,
The Postman to-day is everything;
I never knew another day the whole year through
That gave the Postman such work to do.
Dance, the Postmen dance,
Dance, attendance dance;
Their bags stuff'd tight with letters over-night,
To deliver to the girls in the morning.

The Poet sits in his study—one,
A "brown" study for the time—
(Reader, I pray, excuse the pun)
He's waiting for a rhyme.
There are "bliss" and "kiss,"
And "heart" and "dart;"
But he's used all those before;
And "doves" and "loves,"
And "eyes" and "sighs,"
And of such as these a score.
But he wants a new one to end his line:
Aid him, St. Valentine!
But, Oh, the sad truth of the bard who said
"True love never ran smooth!" as he

Could vouch by all cases he'd seen, heard, or read ;
So, e'en on this day we see
Disappointments occasioned by cold, heartless folks,
Who think Valentine's Day a good chance for a hoax.
And, alas ! so 'tis thought of by many,
Vile wretches to all sense of decency lost,
Who put valentines recklessly into the post,
Without paying the lawful penny.

And the stern papa,
And the fond mamma,
Who have paid for some doings before,
Tell their daughter fair,
Or their youthful heir,
That they really will take in no more.
But entreaties will soften. Another, "Oh see !
'Tis from Charley, I know—he so doats upon me.
Do take just this one ?"
It is done,
She has won.

And to gloat o'er her fortune, the maiden doth run
To her room on hope's eager wings.
She opens it. Horror ! What ? twopence for that !
An old maid with a lap-dog, a parrot, and cat—
Those horrible quizzical things !

Valentine's Day ! Valentine's Day !
Rush to the post-office over the way ;
Scamper along, young and old, grave and gay,
As if you'd the what-do-you-call-him to pay.

Steady old fellows, in want of a wife,
To cheer their respectable elderly life ;
Young men to settle in life just begun ;
Men not settled at all, but who do it for fun ;
Girls of eleven, who don't want to marry,
But adore Master Tommy, or Johnny, or Harry.
All ! all !
Great and small !

Scamper away with you, keep up the ball.

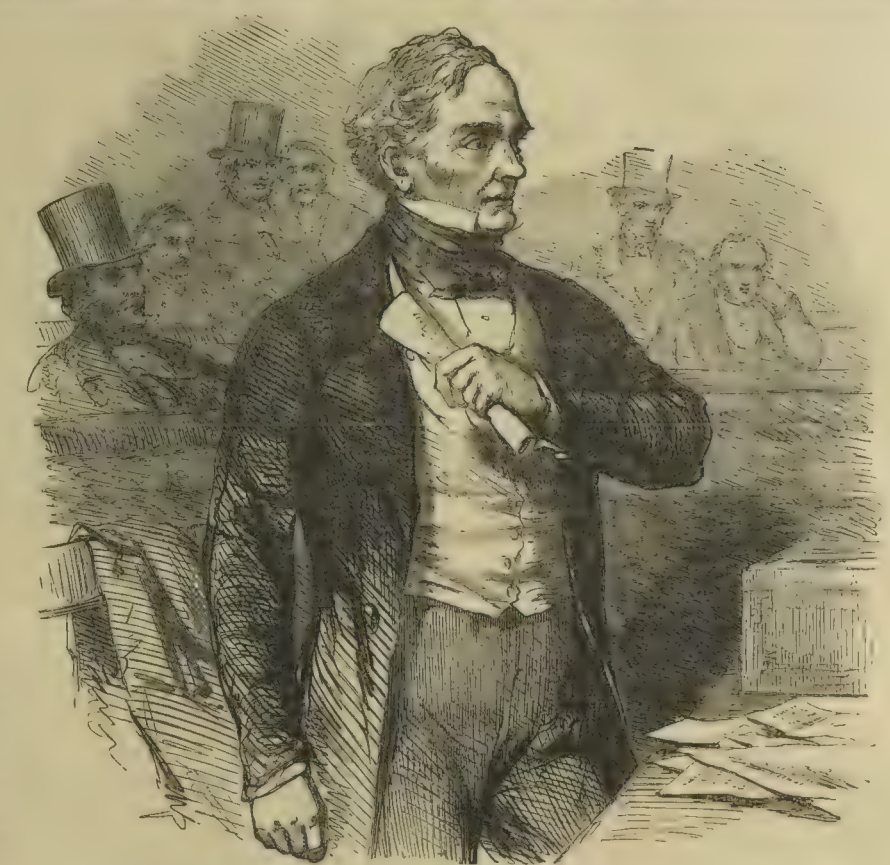
Valentine's Day ! all hail ! all hail !
Long may thy power o'er mortals prevail.
Valentine's Day ! Valentine's Day !
Cupid's own holiday ! Valentine's Day !

WILLIAM BROUGH.

FESTIVITIES AT PARSONSTOWN CASTLE.

THE most magnificent display of fireworks ever witnessed in Ireland was given, on Monday evening week, at Birr Castle. The Earl of Rosse had the fête prepared for the amusement of the people of the town. The fireworks were manufactured and altogether managed at the Castle, and it is said that fairer fingers than his Lordship's were busied about the greater part of them. The Countess of Rosse felt much interest in getting up the festivities: nothing seems to gratify her Ladyship more than making her neighbours happy; and, indeed, nothing could have been more successful than the attempt to do so by the proceedings of Monday evening.

After many disappointments had been experienced on account of the unsettled state of the weather, a propitious day (Monday) at length arrived. Notice was given that the fireworks, so anxiously looked for, would take place, and invitations were issued for a juvenile party, to which, however, old and young were requested to go. At five o'clock, carriages commenced arriving at the Castle, and soon a happy and delighted circle were enjoying the freely-given and cheerful welcome of its noble owners. His Lordship's splendid library was appropriated to the reception, and was soon crowded, the children evidently not more expectant than the grown people. In a short time the dining-room was thrown open, and the younger portion of the guests were gratified by seeing a Christmas-tree, from the branches of which were suspended many and rare presents. A splendid entertainment was likewise provided. The Christmas-tree was a beautifully shaped fir-tree, placed in a large wooden vessel, and illuminated by wax tapers, about fifty in number, and of different colours. This elegant and graceful-looking object, at one end of the dining-room, formed an exquisite ornament; and, although the viands and appointments on the refreshment table were such as might well distract the attention, it was evidently the universal attraction. Numbered tickets were drawn in a sort of lottery by the children, and corresponding numbers being placed on the presents on the tree, each happy possessor of the ticket claimed a prize at the termination of the evening. When seven o'clock arrived, all the guests left the Castle for the lawn, to witness the fireworks. The guests were about two hundred in num-



"The only retrograde step I propose to take is that natural action of a man who finds that a blow is aimed at his head, and who steps backward to raise his arm, and put himself in a posture of defence."

LORD J. RUSSELL PROPOSING HIS MEASURE ON THE PAPAL AGGRESSION.

ber. But the multitudes that assembled in the demesne exceed belief: all the neighbouring towns and country must have contributed their share. Certainly, more than 20,000 persons had come together, excited by the reports that had got into circulation as to the magnitude and beauty of the forthcoming spectacle. Nor were they disappointed. It must have been highly gratifying to the noble projectors of the amusement, to find everything answer so exactly their intentions, and to learn, from the warm applause that occasionally burst from the crowds, that every person about them was delighted.

The slow and majestic rise of a fire-balloon commenced the display: it gradually and steadily mounted into the air, and faded by degrees from the sight, lost in the distance.

Annexed is a copy of the programme which was handed about to the

guests. It is the more remarkable as having been printed by Lord Oxmantown, Lord Rosse's eldest son, now ten years of age:—

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Balloon, with fireworks, if weather permits. | 11. Battery of Roman candles. |
| 2. Lights of different kinds. | 12. Mines of different kinds. |
| 3. Rockets, small and large. | 13. Lights fired by rockets. |
| 4. Tourbillons, air marrons, and shells. | 14. Wheelpiece, 3 mutations. |
| 5. Wheelpiece, 4 mutations. | 15. Rockets, shells, marrons, and mines. |
| 6. Tourbillons. | 16. Mine fired by a rocket. |
| 7. Mines of serpents and saucissons. | 17. Wheelpiece, 3 mutations. |
| 8. Rockets, marrons, and shells. | 18. Marrons, shells, tourbillons, and rockets. |
| 9. Wheelpiece, 2 mutations. | 19. Wheelpiece, 5 mutations. |
| 10. Tourbillons. | 20. Grande. |

To particularise any of these as being good, would be invidious, as



FIREWORKS AT BIRR CASTLE, PARSONSTOWN, THE SEAT OF THE EARL OF ROSSE



CANAMORE, PART OF THE FORT, THE CHURCH, AND COORG HILLS.

SKETCHES ON THE COAST OF MALABAR.

The accompanying pair of Sketches (from drawings by a Correspondent) present interesting specimens of the scenery of Southern India. The first shows Canamore, the principal military post, and arsenal of the provinces of Malabar and Canara, with the church, and near it to the right some of the artillery gun-sheds. In the distance are the Coorg hills; and at their foot, native houses in cocoa-nut groves and gardens, reaching to the beach; and opposite the landing-place are two large stores, covered with cocoa-nut leaves. This Sketch is taken from below the curtain, showing the extremity of the ravelin, the wet ditch, and bridges. From the extreme humidity of the climate of the Coast, the walls are covered with grass, shrubs, and moss, springing out of them.

The second Sketch shows the Fort of Canamore, containing the arsenal and main-guard. The ravelin was added some forty years ago to the Portuguese enceinte, by Sartorius, of the Bombay engineers. It is not now considered of any importance, and seems falling into ruin. Some years ago the sea washed a breach of eleven feet into a bastion-wall, which proved to be thirteen feet thick. The military station of Canamore contains one European regiment, two native regiments, and half a company of foot artillery. The Sketch shows the race-course and evening drive, with the parade-ground; to the left of the picture is the rocky island opposite Tellicherry, across the Bay. The time is morning, and some of her Majesty's 94th regiment are at drill. Here, again, the climate of the western coast being so very wet, with the cold land winds of November, render it very dangerous to horses: most of the European inhabitants use bullocks in their carriages, and these animals, by a dexterous management of the tail, can be made to trot six or seven miles an hour.

CITY COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS.

On Tuesday, the Commissioners assembled in the Guildhall; Mr. Deputy Harrison in the chair.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE CITY COMMISSION.

Mr. Haywood, the Surveyor to the Commission, presented his annual report—a most important document of considerable length, of which the following constitute the main features:—

The 31st of December, 1850, terminated the second year since the City of London Sewers Act, which increased the former and gave additional and highly important powers to your honourable Commission, became operative, and I have the honour of submitting to you my report of the works which have been executed under your direction during the twelve months expiring at that date.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The slaughter-houses, which received special and early attention in 1849, and for which regulations were issued, have been periodically inspected by your officers, and their cleanliness and other needful conditions enforced, so far as your powers will permit. Slaughtering in cellars still continues in many instances: the objections to it so strongly entertained and expressed by you have been put in practical shape by the construction of a clause in the act now being applied for, seeking power to compel the total abolition of the practice.

CHURCHYARDS.—The condition of the churchyards, which, in 1849, occupied your attention, and much of the time of your officers, have not demanded so much supervision, having been for the most part permanently closed; and the act which passed during the last session of Parliament will, it is to be hoped, speedily be put into operation, and, by causing intramural interments entirely to cease, close your labours upon this head.

PUBLIC URINALS.—Various public urinals, and certain of those previously existing, have been reconstructed, drained, and supplied with water. There is still an imperative demand for increased accommodation, and I shall shortly, in pursuance of your instructions, be enabled to submit to your consideration an additional list of sites upon which I conceive they may be erected with great public advantage.

NUISANCES.—The suppression of nuisances has been actively enforced, and the inquiry pursued into the general condition of premises as to drainage, water supply, and arrangements for health and decency. During the heat of summer, additional assistance was given to the inspectors, to enable the poorer dwellings to be more frequently supervised, so as to expedite the abatement of nuisances which might tend to retain or propagate disease. Owing to the large extension of sewage in the poorer neighbourhoods during the years 1849 and 1850, and the enforcement of works of permanent improvement to premises, as drainage, water supply, and the proper sanitary arrangements, the nuisances which were, in 1848 and 1849, so numerous, were last year comparatively few, nor did they, for the most part, present so obnoxious a form as was the case in the previous summer. The number of houses inspected, for the purpose of ascertaining the condition as regards drainage, &c., has been 1882. The total number of notices served for the removal of nuisances and the performance of works which, by their execution, not only abate, but permanently lessen, the chance of future nuisances, was 854.

SEWAGE MANURE WORKS.—The sewage manure works of Mr. Moffatt, at Vulcan-wharf, Riddle-dock, are in the course of enlargement, so as to enable them to intercept the whole of the sewage now discharged into the river between Dowgate and Puddle-dock. The additional sewage was granted by your honourable court to Mr. Moffatt in June, 1850, with the view of encouraging and forwarding this important and almost national experiment. It was my hope that I should have been able to inform you that his works were in active operation, and that at length some portion of the excreta of the metropolitan population was in the course of its legitimate application to the enrichment of the soil, and the reproduction of food for the sustenance of man; but I am informed by Mr. Moffatt that he has spent the whole of the past year in privately trying the effects of its application to the land, and in experimenting upon and perfecting his manufacture, so as to produce manures fitted for various species of vegetable growth, and thoroughly to satisfy himself of its value before undertaking its manufacture upon a larger scale, and sending it into the market in competition with the ordinary manures of the day. He hopes, however, to commence manufacturing actively within a very short time, and expresses his feeling of complete certainty in the success of his undertaking.

SIDE-ENTRANCES, FLUSHING-GATES, &c.—The facility of entrance to the sewers, and the power of keeping them clean without either annoyance to the inhabitants or inconvenience to the traffic, has been last year increased by an additional number of side-entrances, flushing-gates, and tanks, the present total number of which is—Side-entrances, 160; flushing-gates, 108; tanks, 12. I do not contemplate the extension of the system of applying bodies of water from tanks, as, although there are special situations where they may be adopted with advantage, yet their expense will prevent the application of water by such means extensively, or with equivalent benefit.

CLEANING SEWERS.—Although in no case has soil or decomposing refuse

been removed or carted away from the sewers, I have found it expedient to have ballast raised and carted away from certain sewers in which it has for some years been accumulating, and, taking advantage of the winter season, 4782 cube yards has been removed. In connexion with this point, I again draw your attention to the practice existing in certain localities of using the gully gratings as dust-bins; the removal of the debris thus illegally cast into the sewers causing a considerable annual expenditure to this commission, besides originating other injurious consequences. I mention, as an instance of the extent to which the practice prevails, that the sewer under Billingsgate accumulated in a few months many cart-loads, almost wholly of fish-shells, and that 114 cart-loads of fish-shells, cinders, and rubbish were removed from the sewers in the vicinity of Middlesex-street, and were the accumulation of little more than twelve months. I feel convinced that nothing but making public examples by convicting and punishing some offenders, under clause 69 of "The City of London Sewers Act," will stop the practice so universal in the poorer localities of using the gullies as dust-bins.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.—The total number of premises drained during the past year has been 468; the number of premises drained at the expiration of the year 1849 (as closely as could be ascertained) was 10,455; the total number of premises which are now drained is, therefore, 10,923; and undrained, 5377. The cesspools have been in all cases emptied and filled up, the closets trapped, and water supply laid on to them.

NEW SEWERS.—Sewers have been constructed in 52 different places, their aggregate length amounting to 6052 feet, or about 1-1/7 miles. They have been almost exclusively constructed in the poorest localities heretofore without sewers, although some of them were in lieu of ancient and insufficient sewage, which doubtless was originally intended for surface-drainage only. The total length of sewers now existing within your jurisdiction is about 48 miles. Nearly the whole of the sewers constructed within the last two years have been built of stone-ware pipes of small diameter. You will, therefore, have given this mode of construction a fair trial, and a few years will demonstrate whether this much-lauded system, to which have been ascribed so many advantages, is superior or has fewer objections than that which it has partially superseded.

GULLIES.—374 gullies have been retrapped upon improved principles during the year. Your Court has been always open to inventors, and at the present time there are 16 different traps, or modes of trapping gullies, under trial, within your jurisdiction. The provision of the means of excluding effluvia from the atmosphere has not been your only care; but the cleanliness of the sewers, and the prevention of accumulation of decomposing refuse, both by regulated cleanings, and construction of the sewers upon the most improved principles, have been your aim and that of your officers; and I do not hesitate to assert, that the offensiveness of the escape from the gullies has been, of late years, much diminished by the care bestowed upon the condition of the sewers.

VENTILATION OF SEWERS.—I have, during the year, ventilated, also, additional sewers, by carrying iron pipes to the extremity of the chimney-shafts of the houses, and have no doubt of the success of the plan, if adopted as a system, i. e. as far as effecting the requisite ventilation of the sewers.

WATER SUPPLY.—Mr. Haywood, after alluding to the defective means of water supply when he made his last report, says upon that subject:—"Since that date (February, 1850), the provision of means of storage has been enforced upon nearly the whole (16,300 premises), and the greater number of houses have had a separate water supply laid on to them. No houses were, at the former period, nor are there any at the present time, without the legitimate right to water supply. The receptacles for storage are, in many instances, by no means what can be desired; but, as the water supply is daily given throughout the city, and in many of the poorer localities twice a day, the evil is not so aggravated as when



CANAMORE FORT, RACE-COURSE, AND PARADE.

water is stored in small quantities for a long time unchanged, whatever may be the casualties of dryness to which that water may be subject. Now, I need scarcely remind you, that the whole of the City area which is public way is well paved; nearly every place has a sewer, and three-fourths of the houses are drained; and when water waste takes place, it runs immediately either over well-paved surfaces to the nearest gully, or by private drains to the sewers, and the waste might be, therefore, unobscured without any injurious effects. I will simply state, as an illustration, a fact well known to the Court, that generally, wherever your sewers have been constructed, the basements of premises have been rendered so dry that, at this present time, they are used, more or less, throughout the whole of the city of London for the storage of goods, and, not unfrequently, goods of a very valuable description. Throughout the year, the water companies at all times give gratuitously, as heretofore, the supplies of water needed for cleansing or other purposes."

Mr. Haywood concludes his report, which gave great satisfaction to the Commissioners, in the following manner:—

I have but in conclusion to state that nearly every place needing it within your jurisdiction has already drainage, and sewers are either in the course of execution or in preparation for the remainder. A very brief time will, therefore, now elapse before I shall have the pleasure of reporting to you that the long-desired end is attained of enabling every house to drain, and causing the total abolition of cesspools within the city of London. That great source of evil is, indeed, being rapidly removed from us, and, in conjunction with the numerous other works carried out under your direction, is causing such improvements in the physical condition of the dwellings of the community (more especially of its poorer members), that I trust before long you may see the fulfilment of the promise which medical science has made to you, in a population improving both in health and morality.

The report was ordered to be printed, and the Court adjourned.

PLATE PRESENTED TO JAMES HAY, ESQ., OF LEITH.

This richly-chased Silver Epergne (from the establishment of Messrs. Hunt and Roekell, late Storr and Mortimer, 156, New Bond-street), has just been presented, as described in the inscription—



PLATE PRESENTED TO JAMES HAY, ESQ.

TO JAMES HAY, ESQ.,

Manager of the Edinburgh Ropery Company of Leith,
From the Proprietors of that Company, to mark their esteem for him and their
sense of his faithful and prosperous management.
Presented the 20th day of June, 1850.
Being the Centenary of the Establishment of the Company.

The design consists of an oak trunk and branches, supporting a cut glass dish. At the foot of the tree is a figure of Commerce bearing a cornucopia; around are grouped an anchor and coil of rope; the base is ornamented with the hemp plant in allusion to the trade of the Company by whom the plate is presented. The work has been tastefully modelled by Mr. Alfred Brown.

CIVIL LIST PENSIONS.

The following is a list of all pensions granted between the 20th day of June, 1849, and the 20th day of June, 1850, and charged upon the Civil List. The list was inadvertently omitted to be presented to Parliament at the proper time last session:—

Sarah Pennycook, £200, in consideration of the distinguished military services of her husband, the late Lieutenant-Colonel John Pennycook, in various campaigns in the East, and of the large family now dependent upon her for support. In trust to the Rev. John Browne and Edward Maltby, Esq.

Charlotte Agnes Cureton, £200, in consideration of the long and distinguished military services of her husband, the late Colonel Charles Robert Cureton, C.B., and of his death on the field of battle. In trust to Edward Burgoyne Cureton and Daniel Howard, Esqrs.

Sarah Austin, £100, in consideration of the services which she has rendered to literature, especially by her translations of German works. In trust to Sir Alexander Duff Gordon, Bart., and Henry Reeve, Esq.

Janet Hamilton, £100, in consideration of the valuable contributions to philosophical literature, of her husband, Sir William Hamilton, Bart., Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Edinburgh, and of the precarious state of his health. In trust to James Thomson, Gibson Craig, and Andrew Coventry, Esqrs.

Louisa Kenny, £40, in consideration of the literary talent of her husband, the late James Kenny, Esq. In trust to William Chapman and Gilbert Stephens, Esqrs.

Thomas Waghorn, £200, in consideration of the great energy and perseverance which he displayed in opening out the overland route to India, at great cost to himself, and of the services which he has thereby rendered both to that country and to Great Britain.

William Sturgeon, £50, in consideration of his scientific attainments, particularly in the branch of electro-magnetism.

George Petrie, £100, in consideration of his valuable additions to archaeological literature, and especially to that of Ireland.

Caroline Leghorn Grant, £20, in consideration of the gallantry of her husband, the late Sergeant Grant, of her Majesty's 45th Regiment, who was murdered in the discharge of his duty, and of her destitute condition. In trust to the Secretary at War, and the Military Superintendent of out-pensioners.

Bessy Moore, £100, in consideration of the literary merits of her husband,



"GEOFFREY," MR. BUCKSTONE.

"ROCHESTER," MR. DAVENPORT.

SCENE FROM "PRESENTED AT COURT," AT THE HAYMARKET THEATRE.

Thomas Moore, Esq., and the infirm state of his health. In trust to the Earl of Shelburne and Edward Bayntun, Esq.

Maria Ann Price, £50, in consideration of the long and meritorious services of her husband, the late Deputy Commissary-General Price, in various climates abroad, during a period of forty years, and of the destitute condition of his numerous family, in consequence of his sudden death soon after his appointment to an important charge in the West Indies. In trust to John Charles White and Richard Price, Esqrs.

Harriet Waghorn, £40, in consideration of the eminent services of her late husband, Lieutenant Thomas Waghorn. In trust to Joseph Wottenberg and George William Wheatley, Esqrs.

Total, £1200

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

On Thursday week, Mr. Stirling Coyne gave to the stage another example of his talents in the direction of refined comedy. "Presented at Court" is the title of the new piece, which is in five acts. A French anecdote of the reign of Louis XV. is transferred to the English Court of Charles II. The Earl of Rochester (Mr. Davenport) is made to conspire with the Court ladies to effect the exclusion from Court of *Mistress Anne Franklin* (Miss Reynolds), a city heiress: "The Chesapeake aspirant," however, has set her heart upon the Earl, and ultimately succeeds; notwithstanding that her enemies have contrived the robbery of her dress, the destruction of her carriage, the disabling of her hairdresser, and the incarceration of her introducer. The first she recovers, the others she substitutes, and at length obtains the much-desired honour. Mr. Davenport, as the Earl of Rochester, had a part eminently suited to his talents, and played [with equal grace] and vivacity. The lady herself, in the

hands of Miss Reynolds, found a fair and lively representative; while Mr. Buckstone, in the part of *Master Geoffrey Wadderburne*, who in the course of the drama assumes female disguise, in order to pass for *Lady Zumpington* (Mrs. Stanley), the proposed *chaperone* of the Court aspirant was irresistibly humorous. The comedy was decidedly successful.

NEW AFRICAN BIRD.

This new form in birds (*Bakeniceps Rex*) has lately been obtained by Mansfield Parkins, Esq., from the upper part of the White Nile, towards the centre of Africa.

Two specimens were procured, which appeared to be male and female. In size, the bird is equal to a large marabout, or adjutant, exceeding four feet in height. It is the most extraordinary form that has been discovered for many years. Its structure differs from that of any known bird. Its head and bill are extremely large: the construction of the former indicates an affinity to the pelicans, while the body resembles that of a stork. The toes (which are very long) are entirely deficient of the slightest trace of interdigital membrane. In this peculiarity it differs from the storks, cranes, herons, and boobies. The food of this bird is said to be large lizards and fish. The sharp cutting edges and powerful terminal hook of its bill admirably adapt it for the acquisition of such prey.

A short time since, this bird was described and figured to the Zoological Society, by Mr. Gould, the ornithologist, to whom we are indebted for the present opportunity of illustrating this new acquisition.



NEW BIRD.—(A BAKENICEPS REX), FROM THE WHITE NILE.

PARLIAMENTARY PORTRAITS.

THOMAS ALEXANDER MITCHELL, M.P. FOR BRIDPORT.

THE subject of our memoir (youngest son of Mr. John Mitchell, of Montrose, who established the firm of Mitchell and Co. at Riga in 1782, and, in 1810, the firm of John Mitchell and Co. in London, in connexion with the Russia house) was born at London, in 1812; and educated at first at a private school, at Richmond, where he remained until fifteen years of age, when, for the purpose of learning French and German, he was sent to a school at Weisbaden, from which he afterwards, for a short time, went to Heidelberg. At seventeen he returned to London, and was at once set to work in his father's counting-house, in Broad-street; and, in connexion with the business of the firm, several times visited Russia, and travelled over the greater portion of that empire.

The trade in hemp and flax forming the staple manufacture of Bridport, brought Mr. Mitchell, now a partner in the firm, into intimate connexion with the borough; and in 1839 it was intimated to him that Mr. Swinford Jarvis, who, since the general election of 1837, had been its representative, would not again come forward, and that, if he would allow himself to be looked at at the next election, his return would be certain. At the general election in 1841, Mr. Mitchell accordingly came forward in the Liberal interest, and as a strong advocate of the then



MR. MITCHELL, M.P. FOR BRIDPORT.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BEARD.

proposed fixed duty upon foreign corn. The other candidates were Mr. Cochrane, Conservative and ultra-Protectionist, and Mr. Warburton, Free-Trader. Mr. Mitchell was returned with Mr. Warburton second on the poll, by a majority of 38; the numbers being—Warburton, 304; Mitchell, 232; Cochrane, 244. This election cost the parties not less than £10,000. Mr. Warburton soon afterwards accepted the Chittrich Hundreds, and a petition was presented against the return of Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Cochrane then stood in the room of Mr. Warburton, and was elected without opposition; but his return was petitioned against on the ground of bribery at the previous election, but ultimately by mutual arrangement both petitions were withdrawn. The case was subsequently one of those referred to Mr. Roebuck's committee. Mr. Mitchell very frankly confessed his part in the malpractices of the election; but the late Sir Robert Peel having declared that no Parliamentary action could be taken on the report, both members, in common with all those referred to the compromise committee, retained their seats.

In 1844, Mr. Mitchell voted with Mr. Villiers on his annual Corn-Law motion; and, in 1845, made a speech in its favour, his first of any length in the House, and which was one of the best listened to, and most successful of the debate on that side.

His next speech of importance, and upon a subject which he had completely mastered, was early in the session of 1847, in support of Mr. Ricardo's motion for the Committee on the Navigation Laws, of which he was appointed a member, and upon which, in conjunction with Mr. Ricardo, he took the most active part. He was at that time a member of the Committee of Lloyd's Registry of British and Foreign Shipping, from which the insulting manner of several of the members, in consequence of his exertions on Mr. Ricardo's committee, obliged him to retire. At the general election of 1847 he was again returned for Bridport—this time without one shilling of outlay except for the legal expenses; past delinquencies being stoned for by the complete absence of any approach to either bribery or treating. There were three candidates, Mr. Liberal, and at the close of the poll the numbers were Cochrane, 216; Mitchell, 267; Peter, 222. In the two following sessions, Mr. Mitchell spoke frequently in the debates on the Navigation Laws, advocating, on the ground both of the evidence before the Committee and his own knowledge as a merchant, their total repeal. In the session of 1849, Mr. Mitchell was a member of the Metropolitan Grand Juries Committee, and the Committee on the Bankruptcy Bill, on which latter, with Messrs. Masterman and Foster, he represented the London warehousemen and traders. The bill was prepared by a City committee, with Mr. William Hawes at its head; carried through the Lords by Lord Brougham; and after revision by the committee, of which the Attorney-General (now Chief Justice Jervis) was chairman, was passed in the same session. There have been but few such diligent committees; it sat for five weeks, four days in the week, for five or six hours a day; and the changes effected by this measure in the bankruptcy code, which simplified the processes of procedure, and gave the power of punishing fraudulent bankrupts, have proved of the utmost importance to the commercial community.

In the session of 1850, Mr. Mitchell brought forward a motion for the repeal of the duties on wood used in ship-building, on the ground of the injustice of taxing the raw material of a home-built ship, whilst the finished ship of foreign build was admitted duty free, and our owners had to compete with the whole world in the employment of their ships. On this question Mr. Mitchell obtained a majority for going into committee of the whole House; but, on going into committee, he allowed himself to be beaten on a distinct assurance from the Chancellor of the Exchequer "that the whole subject of the duties should be one of the earliest to receive the consideration of the Government, with the view to remove the anomalies which he admitted to exist." In the same session, Mr. Mitchell sat as a member of the Ramsgate and Margate Harbour Committee; and already, in the present session, he has given notice of a motion for the production of papers, previous to moving for a committee of complete investigation into the conduct and constitution of the Board of Customs.

The honourable member voted with Mr. Locke King, last session, for the extension of the £10 household franchise for counties; and has uniformly supported the abolition and the abolition of church-rates. Last year, he voted against the repeal of the window-tax, on the ground of the surplus being already disposed of; but, in the present session, will support the measure, as the most important application of this year's excess.

Mr. Mitchell is now the head of his firm both in this country and Russia.

Our Portrait is from a photograph by Beard.

THE PAPAL AGGRESSION.

This week has brought forth a remarkable LETTER FROM DR. ULLATHORNE, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham, to Lord John Russell, concerning the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, of which we must give our readers an outline. He states, on good authority, that when Lord Minto was at Rome, his Holiness took up the printed document constituting the Hierarchy, of course the one first prepared, and put it into his Lordship's hands, saying, "This concerns England," and Lord Minto laid it down on the table without saying a word. The conclusion drawn by his Holiness from that, was "the continuance of the policy of non-interference in our spiritual affairs." The Bishop was consulted by the Propaganda on the subject of the Hierarchy in 1848, and declared that nothing was passed on the subject, and that what concerned the spiritual affairs of English Catholics, and what the arrangement made in 1850 wholly concerns them. He urged that an Archbishop of London and a Bishop of York should be appointed; but the Pope, on the ground that it would give offence to our Government. The rev. prelate remonstrates with Lord John Russell, saying, "The phrase 'Court of Rome,' which is an ambiguous and offensive designation." He says the noble Lord has made much of the disapproval of some English Catholics, but affirms that not one of them has taken an unexpected course; and he institutes that they are not communicants of the Roman Catholic Church. A dozen or so of persons disloyal to the large body are, in his opinion, as nothing. He is thankful to Lord John for having vindicated the Roman Catholic bishops from the charge of having violated the law, but asserts that, while they are vindicated, unoffending Catholics, seeking their bread, have suffered persecution. Finally, Bishop Ullathorne makes this extraordinary statement: "The hierarchy is established; therefore it cannot be abolished, except through the physical extermination of the Catholic Church in these realms, or, which God forbid, through universal apostasy. It is wise (he asks), and in the spirit of a profound legislation, to put the religious teachers of a large body of her Majesty's subjects in conscientious opposition to the law? Will it aid the sanctions of the State, and that opinion, which, as your Lordship views it, is the best support of law and government, to force us into a position, where, standing as we are bound to do, upon the law of God and our conscience, we are compelled to count for nothing enactments which we can only consider as assaults upon the cause of heaven and our souls—enactments which, in fact, come from no divine fountain of justice, but are the offspring of party contests and sectarian dislikes."

The Earl of Winchilsea has published the following address:—"Fellow-countrymen, brother Protestants.—The milk-and-water measure proposed by her Majesty's Prime Minister last night against the recent act of Popish aggression is a gross insult to the Protestant feeling of this country. It not only maintains the maintenance of our civil and religious liberties, but no time be lost in addressing the Crown for a dissolution of Parliament, and for taking the sense of the country upon a question which involves everything which is dear to us as Englishmen and Protestants."

The noble Earl has also written to the High Sheriff of Kent to call a meeting of the county, for which a requisition it, seems, has been for some time prepared. Her Majesty resolved at Windsor Castle a deputation from the THREE DENOMINATIONS, on Tuesday, to present an address expressive of the conviction that we are indebted, under God, for our civil and religious liberty, to those principles of the Protestant Reformation which placed the House of Brunswick on the throne. The address expressed the deep regret with which they viewed the recent Romish Aggression, and the earnest wish they had conceived to it, among which they specified the legislative patronage of Popery and the anti-Protestant teachings and practices in the Established Church. They prayed that the development of Popery should be only so far permitted as was compatible with the security of the Throne and the safety of the subject. Her Majesty returned the following reply:—"I receive with much satisfaction your renewed assurance of loyalty and attachment to my person and Government. I fully appreciate the importance of a firm adherence to the principles of the Protestant Reformation; and you may rely on my earnest desire, in asserting the just prerogatives of my Crown and the constitutional rights of my people, to maintain unimpaired the blessings of civil and religious liberty which are so justly dear to this country."

The Hon. Mr. CHARLES LANGDALE, a Roman Catholic gentleman of some celebrity, has addressed and published a letter to Lord John Russell, questioning his Lordship's assertion, "That, generally speaking, the lay Catholics of England neither wished for the establishment of the Catholic hierarchy nor approved of it," and referring his Lordship to the address to Cardinal Wiseman, signed by twelve either English Catholic Peers or resident priorors Peers in this country, by fourteen Catholic Barons, and by above 600 of the principal resident Catholic gentlemen of England, including thirty Catholic baronets. He further says:—"Your Lordship has advised her Majesty, in her Royal Speech, to express her earnest and firm determination, under God's blessing, to maintain unimpaired religious liberty. Beware, my Lord, how, in a solemn declaration, you introduce into Parliament a measure which may attempt a violation both of the discipline and doctrine of the Catholic Church."

To Papal aggression we must also set down a call made on the Archbishop of Canterbury to correct innovations in the Church. On Tuesday a deputation, consisting of Rear-Admiral Vernon Harcourt, Mr. J. B. Ryder, Chairman of the Board of Guardians of St. Luke's, Chelsea, and Mr. Thomas A. Young, waited upon his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury to present at the address of the Protestant Society of St. Luke's, Chelsea, a petition signed by 1000 persons at a public meeting, which had received 1000 signatures. It complained of the corrupt Roman doctrines and superstitious practices that have been introduced and sanctioned by some of his Grace's suffragans, and urged his Grace to correct innovations in the Church. On Tuesday a deputation, consisting of Rear-Admiral Vernon Harcourt, Mr. J. B. Ryder, Chairman of the Board of Guardians of St. Luke's, Chelsea, and Mr. Thomas A. Young, waited upon his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury to present at the address of the Protestant Society of St. Luke's, Chelsea, a petition signed by 1000 persons at a public meeting, which had received 1000 signatures. It complained of the corrupt Roman doctrines and superstitious practices that have been introduced and sanctioned by some of his Grace's suffragans, and urged his Grace to correct innovations in the Church. On Tuesday a deputation, consisting of Rear-Admiral Vernon Harcourt, Mr. J. B. Ryder, Chairman of the Board of Guardians of St. Luke's, Chelsea, and Mr. Thomas A. Young, waited upon his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury to present at the address of the Protestant Society of St. Luke's, Chelsea, a petition signed by 1000 persons at a public meeting, which had received 1000 signatures. It complained of the corrupt Roman doctrines and superstitious practices that have been introduced and sanctioned by some of his Grace's suffragans, and urged his Grace to correct innovations in the Church.

DEATH OF AUDUBON, THE ORNITHOLOGIST.

INTELLIGENCE has just been received (in the *New York Herald*) of the death of John James Audubon, the deservedly renowned naturalist, on the 27th of JANUARY, at his residence on the Hudson river, in 1850-street, New York. He had arrived at the age of 74, and had gone down to the grave leaving a name distinguished among the scientific men of every nation—a name earned by a steady perseverance in the beautiful field of ornithology."

Little is known of this celebrated naturalist and draughtsman, except what appears in the autobiographical memoir prefixed to the descriptive letters of his letters, in the *Birds of America*. "I received life and light," says he, "in the *Birds of America*. When I had hardly yet learned to walk, and to articulate those first words always so endearing to parents, the productions of nature that lay spread all around were constantly pointed out to me. They soon became my playmates; and before my ideas were sufficiently formed to enable me to estimate the difference between the azure tints of the sky, and the emerald hue of the bright green, I felt that an intimacy with them, not consisting of friendship merely, but bordering on fondness, must be the lot of those through life; and now, more than ever, I am persuaded of the power of those early impressions. They laid such hold upon me, that, when removed from the woods, the prairies, and the brooks, or shut up from the view of the wide Atlantic, I experienced none of those pleasures most congenial to my mind."

For many years Audubon was prevented following the bent of his genius; he commenced with sketching birds, which rendered him still more sensible of the beauty of the originals.

"Patiently, and with industry," he writes, "I did apply myself to study; for, although I felt the impossibility of giving life to my productions, I did not abandon the idea of representing nature. Many plans were successively adopted, many masters guided my hand. At last I gave to the rudiments of art a new form, and my drawings assumed a form. David had guided my hand in tracing objects of large size. Eyes and noses belonging to giants, and heads of horses represented in ancient sculpture, were my models. These, although fit subjects for men intent on pursuing the higher branches of the art, were immediately laid aside by me. I returned to the woods of the New World with a fresh ardour, and commenced a collection of drawings, which is now the *Birds of America*."

In Pennsylvania, a beautiful state, almost central on the line of our Atlantic shores, my father, in his desire of proving my friend through life, gave me what Americans call a beautiful 'plantation,' refreshed during the summer heats by the waters of the Schuylkill River, and traversed by a creek named Perkioming. Its fine woodlands, its extensive fields, its evergreen, offered many subjects to my pencil. It was there that I spent my time, my days, my nights, with as little concern about the future as if the world had been made for me. My rambles invariably commenced at break of day; and to return wet with dew, and bearing a feathered prize, was, and ever will be, the highest enjoyment for which I have been fitted."

"For a period of nearly twenty years, my life was a succession of vicissitudes. I tried various branches of commerce, but they all proved unprofitable, doubtless because my whole mind was ever fully with my passion for rambling, and admiring those objects of Nature from which

alone I received the purest gratification. I undertook long and tedious journeys, ransacked the woods, the lakes, the prairies, and the shores of the Atlantic. Years were spent away from my family. Yet, reader, will you believe it, I had no other object in view than simply to enjoy the sight of nature. Never for a moment did I conceive the hope of becoming in any degree useful to my kind, until I accidentally formed acquaintance with the Prince of Musignano, at Philadelphia, to which place I went with the view of proceeding eastward along the coast."

"I reached Philadelphia on the 4th April, 1834, just as the sun was sinking beneath the horizon. Except the good Dr. Mease, who had visited me in my younger days, I had scarcely a friend in the city; for I was then unacquainted with Harlan, Wetherell, Macmurri, Lesueur, or Sully. I called on him, and showed him some of my drawings. He presented me to the celebrated Charles Lucien Bonaparte, who in his turn introduced me to the Natural History Society of Philadelphia. But the patronage which I so much needed, I soon found myself compelled to seek elsewhere. I left Philadelphia, and visited New York, where I was received with a kindness well suited to elevate my depressed spirits; and afterwards, ascending that noble stream the Hudson, gliding over our broad lakes, to seek the wildest solitudes of the pathless and gloomy forests."

"Eighteen months elapsed. I returned to my family, then in Louisiana, explored every portion of the vast woods around, and at last sailed towards the Old World."

Audubon then describes his hospitable reception in England and Scotland. In Edinburgh he commenced publishing his illustrations;



THE LATE JOHN JAMES AUDUBON, THE NATURALIST.

his engraver, Mr. W. H. Lizars, advised him to seek an artist in London, and there he employed Mr. Robert Havell, jun., with great satisfaction. Audubon's gratitude is very pleasing. "To Britain," he says, "I owe nearly all my success. She has furnished the artists through whom my labours were to be presented to the world; she has granted me the highest patronage and honours; in a word, she has thus far supported the prosecution of my illustrations. To Britain, therefore, I shall ever be grateful."

As a delineator of birds, Audubon never had an equal; his subjects breathe all the freshness, character, and vigour of living nature. His attitudes are of the most spirited description, infinitely varied, and all appearing as in their native haunts. They are entirely divested of that formality which but too frequently characterises natural history plates, while, at the same time, they are remarkable for the accuracy and imitation of the feathering; and in those parts most essential to the naturalist, namely, the beaks and feet, they are drawn with matchless skill and beauty. His descriptions of birds are strikingly graphic and amusing, although, in this respect, he does not equal Wilson.

The magnificent work of Audubon gained for him a high reputation in this country. In September, 1835, he visited France, where he was received with open arms by all the celebrated naturalists of that country; and Baron Cuvier read a highly laudatory report of the "Birds of America" before the Institute.

In 1829, Mr. Audubon returned to America, where he remained absent about a year, when he revisited England, bringing with him Mrs. Audubon.

The irresistible impulses of his nature again dictated another visit to his native wilderness, for the purpose of making, if possible, fresh discoveries in the feathered creation; he accordingly set sail on the 1st of August, 1831.

The accompanying portrait is from an engraving prefixed to a volume of "The Miscellany of Natural History," of Edinburgh, a work of standard merit.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.—A monthly Court of Sewers was held on Tuesday, at the office, Creek Street, Soho-square. The following commissioners were present:—Lord Ebrington, M.P., who presided; Sir J. Burgoyne, Sir Henry de la Beche, Mr. Peir, M.P., Messrs. Lawes, Dawkins, Rendell, and Hardwick. Mr. Lawes read a report on the operations of the Commission during the past year, which was unanimously received and adopted. Sir J. Burgoyne then brought under the notice of the court an application made by three gentlemen of high standing (whose names he did not mention) who, on entering into an arrangement with the Commissioners for utilising the sewerage manure of the metropolis. Before entering into so large an undertaking, he said, they would of course require to be guaranteed the uncontrolled and undisturbed management of the affair, and they wished a meeting with the Commissioners to ascertain their views on the subject. It would require some consideration before coming to a decision in a matter of this kind; if the Commissioners thought the sewerage could be carried off by a desultory system of drainage, it would not be desirable to agree to any proposal of this nature; but if it should require a great and comprehensive measure, and a large expenditure of capital, the contractors must have some security that they would not be disturbed in their operations. He thought it advisable that they should see the gentlemen, and give them some idea of their opinions on the matter. The application was agreed to, and a day appointed for the attendance of the deputation.

DEPORTATION OF PAUPER CHILDREN TO BERMUDE.—On Tuesday a very large meeting of the board of directors and guardians of the poor of St. Pancras was held at the vestry-hall adjoining the workhouse, King's-road, Camden-town; Mr. Churchwarden Baker in the chair. Mr. G. W. Cook, the secretary, read a report which he had received from the Poor-law Board, founded on the report of their inspectors Mr. Haig, in reference to the recent emigration of pauper children from the workhouse of that parish to Bermuda. This letter was read. It was dated the 10th instant. The following are the most important passages in it:—

"The Poor-law Board, after a deliberate consideration of the evidence, are satisfied that the children, influenced by humane and benevolent motives in the course which they adopted with regard to those children, and that they bestowed every care and consideration in their power in order to promote the welfare of the emigrants, and to ensure the success of the experiment. The board cannot, however, view with indifference the fact, which was candidly acknowledged by the chairman of the directors of the parish of St. Pancras, that the children were not given up to the directors of the Poor-law Board of that parish, but were sent to Bermuda, where they were wholly overlooked."

Mr. Billitt congratulated the board on the manner in which they had come out of this inquiry. It showed that the board had acted in an honest and straightforward manner, and without any fear, and he thought that the whole proceedings of the inquiry should be published to the ratepayers (hear, hear), together with the report of the Poor-law Board. He moved a resolution to that effect. Mr. Shillston seconded the motion, and it having been adopted, the board separated.

LONDON.—Printed and Published at the Office 196, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement Danes, in the County of Middlesex, by WILLIAM LITTLE, 196, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1851.